

Raising Roasters and Turkeys

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Types of Shows

- Roaster are male or female broilers that are between 8 and 12 weeks of age.
- Turkeys will be between 14 and 22 weeks of age.
 - Toms
 - Hens

Roaster Management Practices

- Similar to raising broilers
 - Temperature
 - Housing (Ventilation)
- Differences compared to broilers
 - Culling practices – less stringent
 - Nutrition –
 - After 6 weeks of age provide 4 to 6 ft² per bird

Culling Practices

- Cull at 4 weeks (determination of sexes)
 - Make sure to keep several broilers
- Cull at 6-8 weeks
 - Reduce to only high quality broilers (6-8 total)
- Select at Show date
 - Select roaster that maximizes breast yield (later talk)

Roaster Nutrition

- You may start on a Turkey Starter around 28-30% protein. (1 lb/bird)
- Broiler Show Starter (22-26%)
- Broiler Show Finisher (19-22%) for the remainder of the time.
- Wet feed roasters the last two weeks before the show

Turkey Management Practices

- Housing
- Floor Space
 - 2 ft² per bird to 4 weeks of age
 - 4 to 8 weeks of age provide 6 ft²
 - by 12 weeks age hens should have 7 ft² and Toms at least 10 to 12 ft²
- Temperature

Turkey Nutrition

- Begin on Turkey Starter (approximately 28-30% protein)
 - Until 8 to 10 weeks of age
- Turkey Grower or Show Broiler Starter
 - Until 12-16 weeks of age
- Turkey Finisher or Show Broiler Finisher
- Remainder of the show
- I don't recommend wet feeding turkeys

Timeline for Turkeys

- Period between 9 to 12 weeks
 - Switch from starter to grower
 - Vaccinate for fowl pox
 - First Cull
 - Separate Sexes
 - Begin Light Control on Hens
 - Adjust Equipment to Bird Size